

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03790 240806Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 /065 W

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R 240710Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4728

INFO AMEMBSSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN ANALYSIS OF WORLD MILITARY SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF RECENTLY ATTENDED LECTURE GIVEN BY HUNGARIAN MILITARY OFFICER ON ROLE OF MILITARY IN WORLD POLITICS. OFFICER LEFT LARGELY WORKING CLASS AUDIENCE WITH NO DOUBT THAT U.S. IS MILITARILY SUPERIOR TO SOVIETS, CITING AS EVIDENCE U.S. ADVANCES WITH MIRV'S, TRIDENT AND CRUSE WEAPONS SYSTEMS. FIGURES ON U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH GIVEN BY SPEAKER ALL CITED FROM U.S. SOURCES WITH COMMENT THAT PRECISE DATA NOT AVAILABLE FROM SOVIETS. LECTURER STRESSED CBM'S AND THEIR POSITIVE AFFECT ON EAST-WEST DETENTE. HE ALSO ELABORATED ON NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS POTENTIAL OF CHINESE MILITARY. PRESENTATION WAS UNUSUALLY WELL-BALANCED WITH ATTEMPT TO PRESENT BOTH AMERICAN AND SOVIET VIEWPOINTS ON SALT AND MBFR.

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PAGE 02 BUDAPE 03790 240806Z

END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER ATTENDED LECTURE ON ROLE OF MILITARY IN WORLD POLITICS AT BUDAPEST UNIVERSITY. SPEAKING TO LARGE HUNGARIAN WORKING CLASS AUDIENCE, A MAJOR FROM HUNGARIAN MILITARY ACADEMY, IN UNUSUAL DEVIATION FROM STANDARD PROPAGANDA LINE, ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT BOTH WARSAW PACT AND NATO POINTS OF VIEW REGARDING MAJOR MILITARY NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO PROJECTED POSITIVE PICTURE OF CBM OBLIGATIONS OF HELSINKI DOCUMENT, LABELING CBM'S IMPORTANT STEP IN BREAKING DOWN EAST-WEST SUSPICIONS SO THAT POLITICAL DETENTE CAN BE FOLLOWED BY CONCRETE DISARMAMENT MEASURES.

3. UNUSUAL EMPHASIS PLACED ON MILITARY STRENGTH OF U.S. WITH GREAT DETAIL PROVIDED ON NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS, SUCH AS B-1 BOMBER, TRIDENT SUBMARINES AND CRUISE MISSILES. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WORDS SUCH AS "OVERKILL", "MIRV" AND "SALT" WERE SPRINKLED LIBERALLY THROUGHOUT LECTURE IN PROVIDING EXPLANATION OF STRATEGIC CONCEPTS. LECTURER QUOTED LIBERALLY FROM U.S. PRESS AND ACDA LITERATURE ON NUMBERS OF TROOPS AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, AND AT ONE POINT COMMENTED THAT "OF COURSE PRECISE DATA IS NOT AVAILABLE FROM SOVIET PUBLICATIONS".

4. SPEAKER WAS AT GREAT PAINS TO EXPLAIN WHY HUNGARY NOT PRESENT AT FORCE REDUCTION TALKS IN VIENNA, STRESSING THAT SINCE NATO INSISTED ON EXCLUDING ITALY FROM REDUCTION AREA AND SINCE THAT COUNTRY POSSIBLE POINT OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA (SIC) AND HUNGARY, LATTER COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN VIENNA TALKS. HE GAVE LONG EXPLANATION OF NATO VIEWPOINT ON FORCE REDUCTION AS OUTLINED IN VIENNA AND EXPLAINED WHY U.S., GEOGRAPHICALLY SO REMOTE FROM WESTERN EUROPE, WANTED WHAT HE CALLED DISPROPORTIONATE REDUCTION IN SOVIET FORCES.

5. ALLEGED MILITARY THREAT OF CHINESE ALSO HEAVILY UNDERSCORED. AUDIENCE WAS VISIBLY IMPRESSED BY CITATION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CHINESE GROUND FORCES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUDAPE 03790 240806Z

RESERVE AND PARAMILITARY UNITS. LECTURER ARGUED THAT SINCE JAPAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE ALREADY OVER-POPULATED ONLY OPEN AREA AVAILABLE FOR EXPANDING CHINESE POPULATION IS USSR.

6. COMMENT: NON-POLEMICAL TONE OF LECTURE REMARKABLE IN THAT LECTURER IS A PROFESSOR AT HUNGARIAN MILITARY ACADEMY. SPEAKER WAS REMARKABLY WELL-INFORMED,

OBJECTIVE IN ANALYSIS OF EAST-WEST MILITARY ISSUES, AND QUITE REALISTIC IN EXPLANATION OF U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH. HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS AUDIENCE WITH ALLEGED SOVIET MILITARY PREPONDERANCE NOR WITH MORAL SUPERIORITY OF WARSAW PACT NEGOTIATING POSITIONS.

7. IN RECENT WEEKS HUNGARIAN PROPAGANDA, CLOSELY ADHERING AS USUAL TO SOVIET LINE, HAS BEEN CLAIMING THAT CHICOMS ARE COOPERATING WITH REACTIONARY, MILITARISTIC, ANTI-DETENTE FORCES IN WEST IN ANTI-SOVIET VENTURES. TYING THIS PROPAGANDA LINE TO THE CITATION OF IMPRESSIVE FIGURES RELATING TO U.S. AND CHINESE MILITARY STRENGTH CAN ONLY BE DESIGNED TO CREATE FEAR IN HEARTS OF AVERAGE HUNGARIANS. PERHAPS THIS IS WAY HUNGARIAN POLITICAL PROPAGANDA SPECIALISTS CALCULATE THEY CAN BEST OBTAIN HUNGARIAN POPULAR SUPPORT FOR CLOSE MILITARY TIES WITH USSR (READ LARGE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN HUNGARY) AND AN OUTSIZED HUNGARIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN A LABOR-SHORTAGE COUNTRY. HUNGARIAN POLITICAL STRATEGISTS MAY BELIEVE THAT SUCH A LINE OF PROPAGANDA MUST BE PROJECTED DURING PERIOD OF DETENTE TO EXPLAIN WHY SUCH A LARGE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IS REQUIRED IN HUNGARY AND WHY HUNGARY MUST CONTINUE TO SPEND SO MUCH ON MILITARY DEFENSE.  
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